

Chapter 1 Introduction

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) establishes water quality objectives and monitoring plans to protect the beneficial uses of water within the upper San Francisco Estuary. The SWRCB ensures that these objectives are met through a series of water right decisions issued to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) as a condition for operating the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP), respectively. These objectives include minimum outflows, limits to water exports by the SWP and CVP, and maximum allowable salinity levels. In addition, these water right decisions mandate that DWR and USBR conduct a comprehensive monitoring program to determine compliance with the water quality objectives and report the findings to the SWRCB. This mandated monitoring is conducted by DWR and USBR under the auspices of the Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP). Water quality objectives were issued in December 1999 by Water Right Decision 1641 (D-1641) (SWRCB 1999).

Collected since 1975 by the EMP, monitoring data are stored and managed by DWR and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). DWR manages the environmental water quality data, as well as phytoplankton data and benthic organism data, from discrete and continuous monitoring stations. DFG manages the zooplankton data, which is collected at the EMP's discrete monitoring stations. The EMP data are available to view and download through the Bay Delta and Tributaries Database (BDAT) at <http://baydelta.ca.gov/>. For specific questions about the EMP data on BDAT, contact Karl Jacobs, Chief of the Interagency Information System Services Section, by mail at Department of Water Resources, Division of Environmental Services, 3251 S Street, Sacramento, CA, 95816-7017; by telephone at (916) 227-0435; or by e-mail at kjacobs@water.ca.gov.

This report, entitled *Water Quality Conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun and San Pablo Bays during 2001-2002*, summarizes the findings of the EMP for calendar years 2001 and 2002. Separate chapters are devoted to the water quality, benthic, phytoplankton, zooplankton, and special study components of the EMP. Within each chapter, the major patterns and trends demonstrated by the water quality and biological data within and between years are described in the text and displayed in summary plots and tables. This report is submitted to the SWRCB to fulfill the reporting requirements of D-1641.

Reference

[SWRCB] State Water Resources Control Board. 1999. Water Rights Decision 1641 for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh. Sacramento, California.